

Abstract 588

TITLE: The Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance (SHAS) Project: The Florida Picture

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ISSUE: To obtain supplemental self-reported descriptive information on the characteristics and behaviors of persons with HIV infection or AIDS.

SETTING: The current Florida SHAS project sites are located in Duval (since 1991), Miami/Dade (since 1993), and Hillsborough (since 1995) Counties. All three locations are urban areas with high HIV/AIDS morbidity.

PROJECT: The Florida Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance Project began in January 1991, out of an attempt to find out why people were at risk for HIV, and how to control the risk factors, and prevent HIV transmission. The original project started with two sites; one in Broward County and the other in Duval County. The SHAS project is a dynamic project that is ever changing, ever increasing, and ever challenging. Since its inception in 1991, the Florida SHAS project has completed the largest cumulative number of interviews of all 12 SHAS projects nationally. As of December 1998, there were 5,459 eligible HIV/AIDS cases. Of these cases, 4,796 interviews have been completed and transferred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This represents an overall completion rate of 87%. The Duval County SHAS project is the oldest of the three sites and has been in operation since 1991. It was one of the original sites in Florida and is located in the building containing the Boulevard Comprehensive Care Clinic. The Boulevard Clinic is an HIV/AIDS treatment center run by the Duval County Health Department. The majority of the SHAS participants are recruited from the clinic population, with a small number of interviews conducted with hospital inpatients. SHAS in Miami/Dade County is conducted through a contract between the Miami/Dade County Health Department and the University of Miami School of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology. This same group is also responsible for HIV/AIDS Surveillance at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital campus. SHAS interviews are recruited from multiple outpatient clinics and inpatient wards in the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital complex. The University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital is responsible for reporting approximately 50 percent of the cases in Miami/Dade County which is the largest reporting county in Florida. SHAS interviews have been conducted in Hillsborough since 1995. The project is located in the same building as the Hillsborough County HIV/AIDS treatment clinic, which is the primary source for recruiting SHAS participants. The program manager is able to electronically search the clinic schedule to identify clients for interview. She also works closely with the intake staff and infection control nurse in recruiting participants. SHAS interviews are also conducted in the county jail system and permission has recently been obtained to conduct interviews in Tampa General Hospital.

RESULTS: In the 9 years that SHAS projects have been operational in Florida, an extremely rich, robust database has been developed. Analysis of this data has contributed to the publication of numerous articles, presentations and the Florida Epidemiological Profiles. These data represent a great resource to the community planning process, particularly at the local SHAS site areas. This presentation will provide a general overview of the demographic characteristics of the diverse participants in the SHAS project in Florida along with a more detailed analysis of those participants that responded to the Drug Use module.

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